

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A camera, comprising a control button, wherein a force required to actuate the control button is adjustable by a user of the camera.
2. The camera of claim 1, wherein the camera is a film camera.
3. The camera of claim 1, wherein the camera is a digital camera.
4. The camera of claim 1, wherein the control button is a shutter release button.
5. The camera of claim 1, wherein the camera further comprises:
 - 2 a) an axis of rotation of the control button; and
 - b) a spring that resists the actuation of the control button;
 - 4 and wherein when the control button is rotated in an angular direction about its axis of rotation, a length of the spring is changed in a linear direction, thereby increasing the force with which the spring resists the actuation of the control button.
 6. The camera of claim 5, wherein when the control button is rotated in a second angular direction, opposite the first, about its axis of rotation, the length of the spring is changed in a second linear direction, opposite the first, thereby reducing the force with which the spring resists the actuation of the control button.
 7. The camera of claim 1, wherein the camera further comprises:
 - 2 a) a magnet attached to the control button; and
 - b) a wire coil in proximity to the magnet;

4 and wherein the magnet is repelled by the wire coil when electric current is
5 passed through the wire coil in a first direction, thereby resisting actuation of
6 the control button.

8. The camera of claim 7, wherein the magnet is attracted by the wire coil when
2 electric current is passed through the wire coil in a second direction, opposite the
first, thereby assisting actuation of the control button.

9. The camera of claim 7, wherein the magnitude of the current is adjustable.

10. The camera of claim 9, further comprising a user control that allows the user of
2 the camera to specify the force required to actuate the control button.

11. The camera of claim 10, further comprising a control circuit that controls the
2 magnitude of the current in response to a setting of the user control.

12. A method, comprising the step of adjusting, by a user of a camera, a force
2 required to actuate a control button of the camera.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the control button is a shutter release button.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of rotating the control button,
2 thereby changing the length of a spring that resists the actuation of the control
button.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of specifying, using a user
2 control, the force required to actuate the control button.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

- 2 a) passing electric current through a wire coil;
- b) generating magnetic flux in the wire coil; and
- 4 c) exerting a resulting force on a magnet that is in proximity to the wire coil, the resulting force resisting actuation of the control button.

17. A camera, comprising:

- 2 a) means for instigating the taking of a photograph; and
- b) means for adjusting a force required to actuate the means for instigating the taking of a photograph.
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